

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 FPC-01 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

SCI-06 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 MC-02 AEC-11 RSR-01 SCEM-02

COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSY-11

/205 W

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R 200434 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3254

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: MITI POLICY ON IMPORTS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO RECENT USG REPRESENTATIONS, MITI HAS GIVEN EMBASSY A LETTER RE ITS POLICY ON IMPORTATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, IN WHICH MITI STATES IT FULLY RESPECTS RESULTS OF COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE POWER COMPANIES AND DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS. MITI ADVISED EMBASSY THAT THIS POLICY, WHICH IT STATES DOES NOT REPRESENT CHANGE FROM RECENT PAST, WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 16 E/ MIN WAS ASKED TO CALL ON KOMATSU (DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUREAU, MITI) TO RECEIVE LETTER FROM KOMATSU TO AMBASSADOR EBERLE, TEXT OF WHICH AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WITH REGARD TO IMPORT OF NUCLEAR POWER
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PLANTS, I SHOULD LIKE TO STATE THE M. I. T. I.'S POSITION AS FOLLOWS: (PARA) IN EXAMINING AND MAKING A DECISION ON IMPORT APPLICATIONS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, IT IS THE MITI'S POLICY TO FULLY RESPECT THE RESULTS OF COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DOMESTIC ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES, WHO ARE THE USERS OF THE PLANTS, AND DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN POWER PLANT MANUFACTURERS. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NECESSARILY COVER TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES. (PARA) IN ANY CASE, MITI HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PRIVATE COMPANIES WHETHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN. UNQUOTE.

2. KOMATSU EXPLAINED THAT LETTER PROMPTED BY USG REPRESENTATIONS ON MITI'S POLICIES REGARDING QUESTION OF PURCHASES OF IMPORTED AS OPPOSED TO DOMESTIC PLANTS. THE ISSUE RAISED MOST RECENTLY

DURING EBERLE VISIT EARLY FEBRUARY. KOMATSU STATED THAT LETTER DID NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN GOJ POLICY, BUT RATHER WAS CONFIRMATION OF WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. IN RESPONSE TO E/ MIN'S QUESTION, HE STATED THAT POLICY WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY NOT TOO SANGUINE THAT MITI LETTER WILL DRASTICALLY ALTER PRESENT PURCHASE POLICIES OF JAPANESE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WE HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED AS OVERLY SIMPLISTIC THE VIEW OFTEN HEARD FROM AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS OF NUCLEAR POWER EQUIPMENT THAT MITI WAS FORCING ITS WILL IN FAVOR OF DOMESTICALLY PROCURED EQUIPMENT ON A RELUCTANT JAPANESE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY. PROBLEM, AS WE HAVE SEEN IT, IS THAT ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY AND MITI BASICALLY THINK ALIKE ON THIS QUESTION. MITI ATTITUDE ONLY REINFORCES ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY'S RELUCTANCE TO BECOME COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES OF SUPPLY. ALSO THERE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERVASIVENESS OF INTER- COMPANY BUSINESS AND PERSONAL

RELATIONSHIPS WHICH PERMIT JAPANESE REACTOR MANUFACTURERS TO OBTAIN FAVORED TREATMENT FROM ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES.

4. HOWEVER, WE PLAN PROMPTLY INFORM REPS OF US REACTOR MANUFACTURERS IN TOKYO OF LETTER' S EXISTENCE IN HOPE THAT IT MIGHT SERVE INCREASE READINESS OF POTENTIAL JAPANESE CUSTOMERS TO LOOK TO US SOURCES. WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON CONTACT MAJOR US REACTOR MANUFACTURERS AND INFORM THEM OF MITI' S POLICY DECLARATION.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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